

Sts. Peter & Paul School – December 2011

Welcome to December and a warm welcome to Zachary VanBlair and his family! Zach is a 2nd grader who comes to us from Dallas City.

Announcements / Reminders: Winter is here and we continue to have recess outside as much as the weather and temperature will allow. Please make sure your child(ren) have a warm coat, hat and gloves; we do have some available for students to borrow if needed.

SPPS follows the Nauvoo Public Schools regarding the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather. Be sure to listen to the local television and radio stations for information regarding school closings. You will also receive a call from the Nauvoo School Reach until our OptionC alert system is up and running in January.

SPPS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT: DECEMBER 1 – 3

This tournament is a good fundraiser for us, as well as being good for PR. We ask ALL of our parents to support our athletic program in 2 ways: work at the tournament or a home game in the concession stand, and donate \$5.00 to help defray the cost of the candy (please send in your donation, if you haven't already – thanks!) A schedule of concession workers has been sent home. ☺ IF YOU CANNOT WORK THE SHIFT YOU HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED, PLEASE TRADE OR GET SOMEONE TO TAKE YOUR PLACE (and let Angee Sinele know). Thanks for your support!



Angel Tree: The staff and students have chosen 2 angels from the Nauvoo Angel Tree - if your family would like to donate any items for this, please see the enclosed note for additional information. Thanks!

Acts of Random Kindness At our first Friday Mass on December 2, the following students will be honored for their acts of random kindness: **Emma Adams, Josh Walker, and Allison Manka**. Great Job!!

Tuesday, **December 6th** is traditionally celebrated as the **feast of St. Nicholas**. He will be making a visit here, so the students need to bring a shoe or stocking to leave on their desks by Monday, December 5th.

When St. Nicholas was a young man, his parents died and left him a large fortune, so he made it his business to give it away bit by bit. For years, under cover of night, he secretly tossed bags of gold into the houses of people who needed it the most. We know that his secret was discovered, because on his feast day, it is the custom in many countries to put shoes outside the door the night before his feast day, and in the morning find that St. Nicholas has filled them with goodies. We carry on the custom by hanging our stockings the night before Christmas, "in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there."

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION On Thursday, December 8th, we will celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary which is a holy day of obligation. This means that Catholics are obliged to go to Mass on this day. Mary is the greatest saint, our greatest example of what it means to be a Christian. God chose Mary to be the Mother of Jesus, and she did not hesitate to say yes to God's call. Since this feast is celebrated during Advent, it is the perfect time to think about Mary's role in the life of our Savior.

The students will be attending 8:30 a.m. Mass – please check your calendar for other Mass times.

BIRTHDAY DAY Our December birthday day will be Wednesday, December 14th. Those celebrating birthdays are Claire Keochle (12), Trenton Hanks (18), James Scheetz & Mason Burling (20), Anna Walker (21), and Joey Gambrell (25).

CADET BAND WINTER CONCERT will be held Thursday, December 15, 7:00 PM at the West Theater, Historic Visitor's Center.

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CHRISTMAS PROGRAM The Christmas Program, *Three Wee Kings*, will be on Sunday, December 18 at 2:00 PM in the gym. Our committee is Susan & Tony Knipe (chair), Tami & Jamie Kaminski, Darren & Neva Koechle, Jodi & Dick Burling, Laura & Bryan Finch, and Jennie Hanks.

Please see the enclosed note for what students need to wear for the Christmas Program.

Our dress rehearsal for the program will be on Friday, December 16 at 10:30 AM. We have invited the Nauvoo Elementary students, and you are welcome to attend also.

DRESS CODE NOTES: The month of December has several dress code exceptions – please note students are expected to wear regular dress code if they choose not to participate in the following:

Friday, December 2 = First Friday Dress Up

Tuesday, December 6 = No Dress Code

Monday-Wednesday, December 19-21 = Christmas Dress Code (Christmas shirt/sweater/outfit)

Christmas Dinner The cooks will prepare our annual Christmas feast with all the trimmings on Tuesday, December 20 at noon. Make plans to join us now. Please call the school to make your reservation by Friday, Dec. 16 so we have enough food for everyone. (\$3.00/adult and \$1.75/child)

CHRISTMAS PARTIES Our Christmas parties will be the last day of school before vacation – Wednesday, December 21. All parties will begin at 10:15 a.m. The following parents have signed up to help with parties: Kayla Haas & Debbie Boyles (PreK), Stephanie Walker & Tanya Juhasz (K), Sheila Poppe (1/2), Neva Koechle & Rachel McIlmoil (3/4), and Susan & Tony Knipe and Tami Kaminski (5/6).

ST. JUDE WALK-A-THON: Thank you to all who donated to St. Jude – we will be sending them a check for over \$1,000!!! We did have to walk inside due to the weather, but the students and staff enjoyed walking and talking and the challenges in the gym for our 1 hour walk-a-thon. We appreciate your support!

SCRIP CONTEST UPDATE

Week 1 winners = 5th grade

Week 2 winners = Kindergarten

Week 3 winners = 6th grade

Week 4 winners = 5th grade

You have two more weeks to place your scrip orders if you want them before Christmas. December 12th will be the last day to order cards unless you want Caseys, HyVee or WalMart, which we keep on hand in the office. **We will not place another scrip order until the week of January 3rd.**

Our profit through 4 weeks of the contest has been over \$1,700. Remember this is an EASY fundraiser for us and we do rely on this money as part of our budget. Thank you again for your help!

GOD BLESS YOU during this season of Advent and Christmas!